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June 1, 1978

6/1/78
BI 096

F. Allen Harris
US EMB/POL
APO New York, NY 09871

Dear Tex:

Again, recognizing that you are all under the pressure of an incredible workload, but I feel I have to bring something to your attention. We received a phone call from Winifred Lubell of AIUSA Group 116 in Wellfleet, Mass. about their prisoner, Nestor Matoso. Mrs. Matoso, who is a medical doctor, went to the embassy very recently to inquire about her husband's visa. His name is on the list of applicants you sent me. She spoke to a Mrs. Blanco, who evidently treated her rather rudely, told her there was no such visa program, that she should go to other embassies and that she was but one grain among many thousands. Understandably, Mrs. Matoso became very upset, especially since her husband is in bad health a result of his tortures. He evidently is now being held in a punishment cell in La Plata because of whistling.

We realize that there is no totally approved program, but all indications are that there will be, and you understand better than I how treatment like this can set off a chain reaction that is unfortunate. I gather somewhat the same thing happened with Mrs. Aybar, the mother of Nestor Fantini Aybar, who travelled from Brazil to the embassy and was turned away.

I hate to always be the bearer of bad news and then ask you favors. Would you mind keeping me up to date on the lists of applicants, and also could you let me know how many applicants there are, how many security clearances have been completed and how many certificates have been issued?

We are pushing and hoping for the program which now is supposedly going to happen on Monday, June 5. Thank you in advance for your attention to these matters, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Wendy W. Turnbull

WWT:nb

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